



1995 SENATE BILL 29

January 24, 1995 - Introduced by Senators DECKER, ROSENZWEIG, BRESKE, CHVALA, WINEKE and PLEWA, cosponsored by Representatives HUBER, ROBSON, KAUFERT, SPRINGER, ZIEGELBAUER, WILDER, BOCK, HASENOHRL and MURAT. Referred to Committee on Health, Human Services and Aging.

1 **AN ACT to amend** 49.055 (2); and **to create** 20.435 (4) (ed) and 49.05 (3m) of the
2 statutes; **relating to:** creating a work program for general relief recipients to
3 assist in disaster relief efforts, granting rule-making authority and making an
4 appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, a general relief agency may require an individual who is receiving general relief to participate in any work relief project authorized and sponsored by the general relief agency, as long as the individual is capable of performing the work. This bill establishes a new type of work program for general relief recipients to assist in disaster relief efforts. Under this program, if the governor proclaims a state of emergency for a natural disaster, general relief agencies in the areas covered by the state of emergency are required to administer a work program to assist in disaster relief efforts, if sufficient funding is available for the department of health and social services (DHSS) to reimburse the general relief agency for administrative expenses incurred in operating the program. To the extent that reimbursement is available under federal disaster relief programs, DHSS is required to seek reimbursement for the costs of operating this disaster relief work program from the federal government and to use these funds to operate the program.

A general relief agency may require a general relief recipient to participate in the disaster relief program unless the recipient is under 18 years of age, is over 60 years of age, has documentation that he or she is unable to work due to a physical or mental illness or disability, is needed in the home to provide child care for a dependent child or is determined by the general relief agency to be unable to perform employment. An exception is also made for general relief participants who are enrolled and in good standing in certain approved educational programs.

1 the extent costs incurred under this section are eligible for full or partial
2 reimbursement from other state agencies or under 42 USC 5121 to 5201, the
3 department shall seek reimbursement for these costs and shall use these funds to
4 operate the disaster relief work program under this subsection. Except as provided
5 in s. 49.055 (2), a general relief agency may require a general relief recipient to
6 participate in a work relief program required under this subsection unless the person
7 meets one of the following conditions:

8 (a) The person is under 18 years of age.

9 (b) The person is over 60 years of age.

10 (c) The person has medical or other appropriate documentation, such as a
11 statement from a vocational counselor or mental health professional, that he or she
12 is unable to work due to a physical or mental illness or disability, including problems
13 related to substance abuse. A general relief agency may require the documentation
14 required under this paragraph to be renewed upon request.

15 (d) The person is unable to perform employment, as determined by the general
16 relief agency.

17 (e) The person is needed in the home to provide child care for a dependent child.

18 **SECTION 4.** 49.055 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

19 49.055 (2) Eligibility for general relief under s. 49.05 (1g), (3m) and (8) shall
20 not be affected for any otherwise eligible applicant for or recipient of general relief
21 while the applicant or recipient is enrolled in and in good standing in any program
22 under sub. (1) if, solely by reason of the enrollment and good standing, the applicant
23 or recipient is unable to meet requirements of grant diversion or work relief rules
24 established by the general relief agency.

25 **SECTION 5. Nonstatutory provisions; rule making.**

